

App. No.: 10/823,005
Art Unit: 3644

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed an Office Action dated February 3, 2006. By way of response, Applicants have amended claims 33 and 57. Claims 52, 58 and 59 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 33-40, 51 and 53-57 are currently pending. No new matter is added.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 52 contains allowable subject matter.

For the reasons given below, Applicants submit the newly presented claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 57 has been amended. Accordingly, claim 57 fully complies with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 33-40, 51, 53 and 55-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Gutzmann et al.* (US 6,010,729) in view of *Bender et al.* (US 5,143,739). Claims 33-40, 51 and 53-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Gutzmann et al.* (US 6,010,729) in view of *Willis* (US 6,503,401). Claims 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Gutzmann et al.* (US 6,010,729) in view of *Buhot et al.* (US 6,142,861). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 52 is not subject to these rejections. Independent claim 33 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 52. Therefore, these rejections no longer apply.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, is respectfully submitted that the reference cited neither teaches nor suggests the presently claimed method, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In summary, Applicant submits that each of claims 33-40, 51 and 53-57 is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this patent.

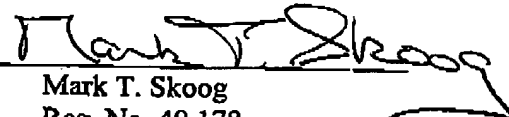
Respectfully submitted,

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MTS:SMM

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